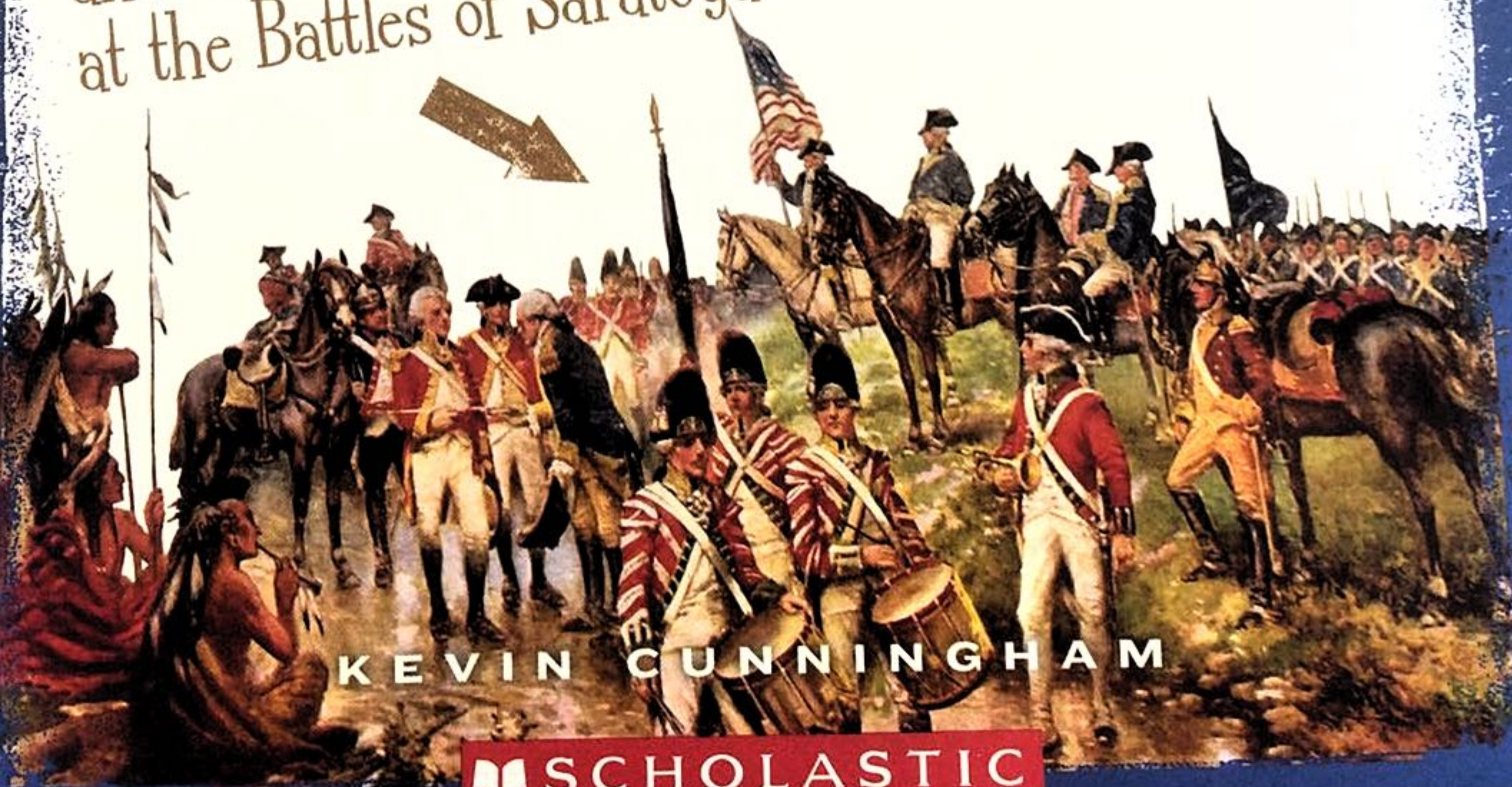


A **TRUE** BOOK



The New York Colony

Ninety militiamen
and 440 Redcoats died
at the Battles of Saratoga.



KEVIN CUNNINGHAM

 SCHOLASTIC

Timeline of New York Colony History

1500s



Native Americans live throughout New York



1624



New Amsterdam is founded.



1683



The colony's General Assembly is created.

1775



American colonists fight first battles with the British.



1788

New York ratifies the U.S. Constitution.





The Native Americans

The area of present-day New York has been home to many Native American peoples. Groups such as the Mohawk, Oneida, and Seneca shared the **Iroquois** language and many aspects of their everyday lives. Five Mahican groups lived in areas around today's Hudson River. The Lenni-Lenape inhabited a region that stretched from southern New York to Delaware. The Lenni-Lenape and Mahicans spoke languages of the **Algonquian** family.


Finding Food, Growing Food

Many of the region's Native Americans hunted, fished, and gathered wild plants. Some also farmed. Farmers planted maize (corn), beans, and squash. Hunters used short spears and bows to hunt deer, turkey, and rabbit. People living near water used

traps, nets, and bone hooks to catch salmon and trout. Women gathered herbs, berries, and other plants. These plants were used for food and medicine.



Hunting was mostly done by men.

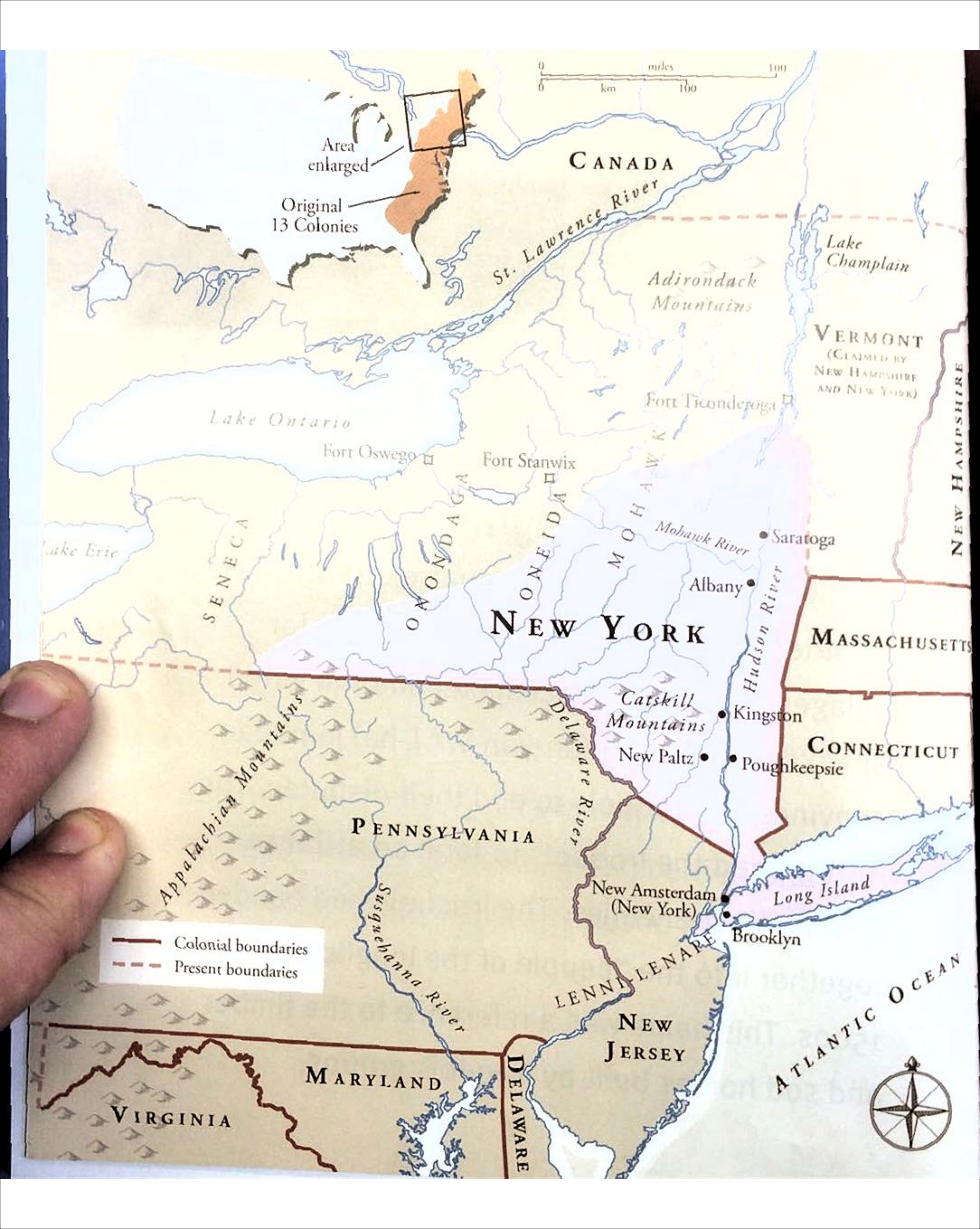
Iroquois referred to their alliance as the *Haudenosaunee* (HO-den-oh-SHO-nee). 



The Great Peacemaker convinced the five Iroquois groups to set aside their differences and join together.

“People of the Longhouse”

The Iroquois peoples once quarreled with one another over hunting grounds and sites for villages. The Great Peacemaker and the gifted speaker Ayenwatha (ah-yon-WAT-ha) joined to convince the Iroquois to end their disputes. They encouraged the Iroquois to form an **alliance** against their enemies. The Iroquois had banded together into the “people of the longhouse” by the 1500s. This name was a reference to the timber and sod homes built by Iroquois groups.



The Settlers

The Lenni-Lenape first encountered Europeans in the early or mid-1500s. English explorer Henry Hudson landed on what became Manhattan Island in 1609. Hudson was working for a Dutch company. He traded with the local peoples before sailing up today's Hudson River. Hudson sent reports of fine farmland and friendly Indian traders. This convinced the Dutch West India Company to start a colony in the area. They named the colony New Netherland.

New Amsterdam

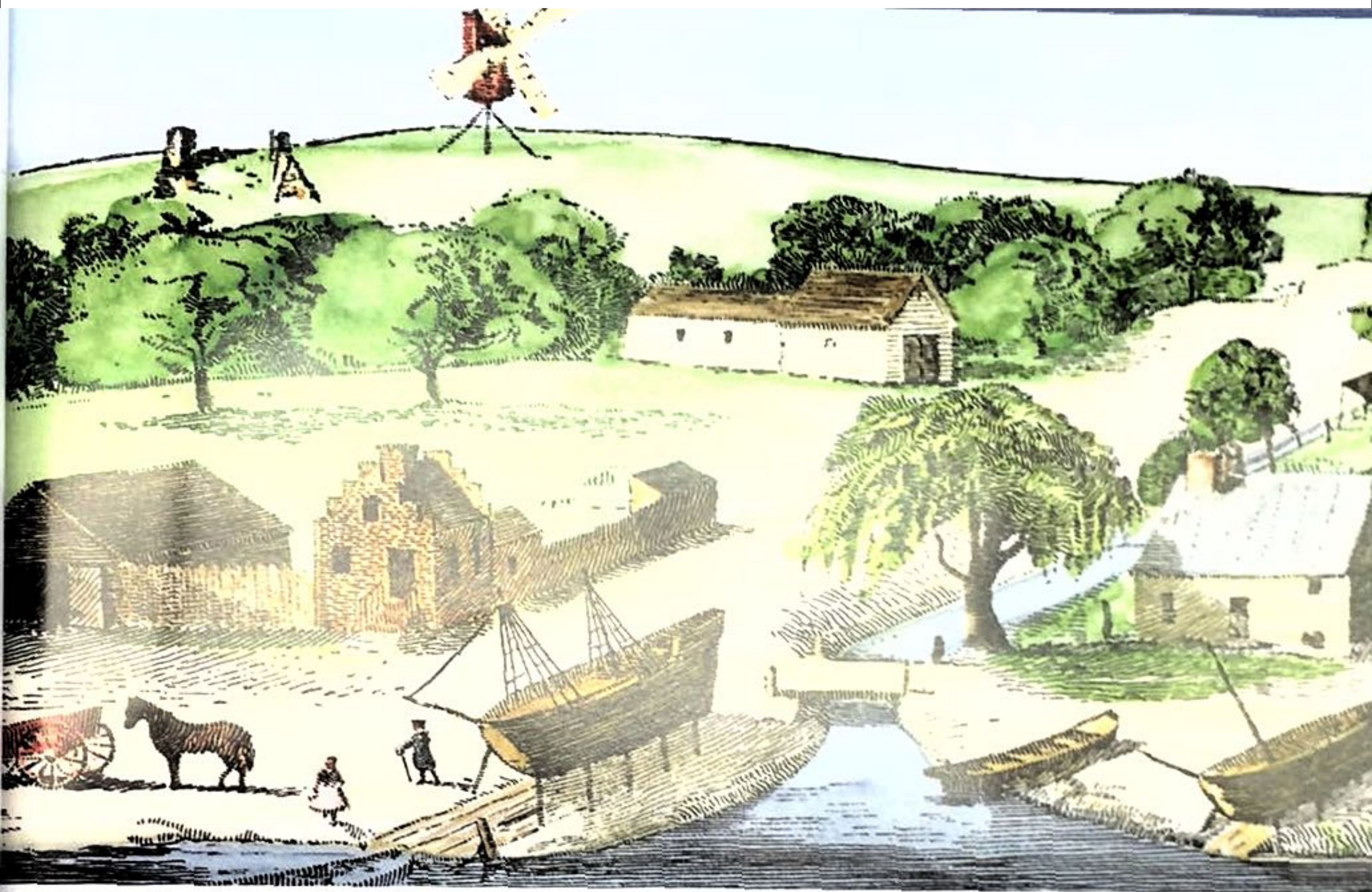
Thirty Dutch families set up four settlements in the colony in 1624. The main village of New Amsterdam was located on the southern tip of Manhattan.

More settlers arrived the next year. A new colony leader named Peter Minuit arrived in 1626. He bought Manhattan from local Native Americans, possibly for tools, cloth, kettles, and other items. This expanded New Amsterdam. The Dutch began clearing land to build farms and a new town.

**Henry Hudson explored
New York for the Netherlands.**

Henry Hudson's
ship was named
the *Half Moon*.





The Dutch settlers built towns along waterways.

Traders from the Netherlands bought beaver and otter furs from the Indians. The furs were used to make and sell expensive hats and clothing in Europe. The Lenni-Lenape received metal tools and pots in return. These were highly prized items. The Algonquian peoples lacked access to metal products at the time.

Different Dutch fur companies also competed with one another for the American Indians' business.



Fur Wars

The fur trade created conflict among the Native Americans. The Mohawk wanted to drive the Mahican out of the Hudson River region and take control of all trade with the Dutch. The fighting between the two peoples spilled over into attacks on settlers and traders. The Dutch feared attack. They built a wooden barrier around New Amsterdam. The Mohawk victory brought a brief peace. But it was followed by years of bad leadership and bloody conflict with the Lenni-Lenape.

The Stuyvesant Years

The Dutch West India Company turned to former soldier Peter Stuyvesant to lead New Amsterdam in 1647. Stuyvesant immediately passed laws to clean up the colony. Fences, buildings, the local windmill, and the town fort underwent repairs. Workers paved New Amsterdam's streets with stones. They also built a protective wall along Wall Street. Stuyvesant also organized a police force to deal with the town's crime.

New York City's
Bowery neighborhood
is named after Peter
Stuyvesant's farm.



Peter Stuyvesant brought major changes to the New Amsterdam colony.

Stuyvesant greatly improved conditions in New Amsterdam. But he made enemies. The taxes he placed on furs and other products to pay for the colony's improvements were unpopular. He also ran into opposition to his ideas on religion. New Amsterdam was unlike most colonies. It accepted people of any faith. But Stuyvesant tried to exclude Jews, Quakers, and others. The Dutch West India Company forced him to allow such groups to settle. But Stuyvesant refused to let them worship outside their own homes.



Many Quaker settlers came to New Amsterdam.



The English arrived in New York's harbor in 1664.

England Takes Over

England controlled colonies along the Atlantic Coast. It decided to add New Amsterdam to its holdings. English soldiers met no resistance from colonists when they first arrived. Dutch colonists soon agreed to officially give power over the colony to England if colonists could continue trading and living as they had. New Netherland became New York. New Amsterdam was renamed New York City. Stuyvesant stayed and lived as an ordinary citizen on his nearby farm.

Wanting a Voice

The Dutch government tried for several years to take back control of the colony. But they made their final surrender to England in 1674. Thomas Dongan was the English governor of the colony in 1683. He allowed New Yorkers to create a **legislature** called the General Assembly. Only male landowners and businessmen could vote. That same year the assembly passed laws guaranteeing rights to the colonists such as free speech and trial by jury. The Duke of York, the English noble who owned New York, gave his approval.

The Dutch temporarily regained control of New York in 1673 before surrendering it in 1674.



James II took
the throne on
February 6, 1685.



James II ruled for just a few years before being replaced during a revolution.

The duke became King James II in 1685. He combined New York with other nearby colonies into a single colony called the Dominion of New England. But the change lasted only until James was replaced as king in 1688. New York returned to being its own colony. Colonists in New York City captured the British soldiers there and elected Jacob Leisler governor.

Leisler's Changes

Leisler allowed many of the poor to vote. Many tradesmen, farmers, and store owners supported him. But rich landowners and merchants did not. English soldiers returned to New York City in 1691 and defeated a local **militia**. Leisler was put on trial and hanged as a traitor. Some of Leisler's changes remained in place. They reminded New Yorkers that they could have a voice in their own government.


Jacob Leisler became governor of New York after James was replaced as the British monarch by William and Mary.





Living in the Colony

New York offered colonists a wide variety of work possibilities. The merchants who got rich from the fur trade began to be replaced by traders who dealt in lumber and many other products. Educated professionals such as lawyers and accountants began to establish numerous businesses throughout New York City.



Today, New York City has the largest population of any city in the United States.

William Bradford
owned a bookstore
in Philadelphia.



**William Bradford's
publications inspired political
discussion in New York City.**

The city's prosperity also helped boost a tradesman's chances of success. Printer William Bradford published books and a popular newspaper called the *New-York Gazette*. Carpenters, masons, and bricklayers built homes and churches for the wealthy. These tradesmen could often afford to erect houses for themselves. Goods brought in by merchants allowed New Yorkers to open shops with the latest products from the colonies and England.



Wealthy women in New York City could afford to buy expensive clothes and to hire servants.

The Colony's Women

Women could keep their own names and buy land during the days of Dutch control. They could also pass this land to their children. But the English ended these freedoms. Most women in New York worked in the home. They took care of children, made clothes, and cooked. Some made items such as candles to sell. Some unmarried women helped with family businesses or worked as servants for the wealthy.

Going to School

Stuyvesant valued education. New York had more schools than many other colonies. Dutch children had a six-hour school day. Children were taught math, reading, writing, and religion. Some teachers punished misbehavior by hitting students with willow branches. Others forced students to sit on sharp tacks. Girls usually sat in the back of the classroom. Children on farms had to help with chores when they were not in school.



Most colonial schools only had one classroom.

In 1703, 42 percent of New York's homes had slaves.



Slaves

The Dutch slave trade was small compared to the southern colonies. They also granted some rights to slaves. Free blacks were slaves who had arrived on Dutch ships. They were allowed to own property. The Dutch also kept slaves in half-slavery. They were forced to work but could later be freed. New York slaves still did not have the same rights and freedoms as their owners.

England had a harsher view of slavery. Britain regained control in 1664. Free blacks lost the right to own property in 1712. The English encouraged slave trading because of the huge profits.